

Response dated January 31, 2006

Reply to Office Action of November 3, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were previously pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Applicants' Abstract, reminding Applicants that the Abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. Applicants have amended the Abstract and, accordingly, request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Objection

The Office Action indicates that claim 7 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim base, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,950,035 B2. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited reference.

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Amended independent claim 1 recites, inter alia:

A parking assisting device . . . comprising . . . a controller . . . for comparing a pre-set prescribed yaw angle corresponding to a predetermined vehicle position with the yaw angle of the vehicle detected by the yaw angle detecting means to identify a current position of the vehicle . . . and displaying on the monitor at least one of a predicted path and a predicted parking position on the parking path guided by the guidance information so as to overlap the image obtained by the image capturing means . .

Applicants submit that Tanaka et al. cannot anticipate amended independent claim 1 because it does not teach each and every element of this claim. See MPEP § 2131. Specifically, Tanaka et al. disclose a parking assist system comprised of a camera 11, monitor 17, target parking position input switch 14 and a controller 20, which, collectively, detect a relative relationship between the vehicle and the target parking position and calculate whether the vehicle can be parked at the target parking position based upon the detected relative relationship. See Tanaka et al., col. 2, ll. 56-65; col. 8, ll. 13-34. Tanaka et al. do not, however, disclose “a controller . . . comparing a pre-set prescribed yaw angle corresponding to a predetermined vehicle position with the yaw angle of the vehicle . . . and displaying on a monitor at least one of a predicted path and a predicted parking position on a parking path guided by the guidance information so as to overlap with an image obtained by an image capturing means” In contrast, Tanaka et al. teach a device, wherein a reference marker 31, used for recognizing a relative position between a vehicle and a target parking position, is displayed on a monitor and is movable by selecting any of several arrowheads. Notably, Tanaka et al. do not disclose a predetermined parking path. Applicants, on the other hand, disclose an invention whereby a predetermined path is set in

advance and displayed on a monitor so as to overlap an image obtained by the camera and confirm prior to parking whether the vehicle can be parked along the predetermined parking path into a parking space by performing driving operations in accordance with guidance information.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Tanaka et al. do not teach or suggest each and every element recited in amended independent claim 1 or claims 2-6 and 8-14 depending therefrom. Accordingly, these claims define patentable subject matter over Tanaka et al. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 6 and 11-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. in view of Takagi et al., U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0080877.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references, taken either alone or in combination.

Tanaka et al. is directed to a parking assist system, wherein an input screen displays a reference marker 31, which represents a target parking position and provides for the determination of a relative position between a vehicle and the target parking position. More specifically, the reference marker 31 can be moved to an intended parking position by touching arrowheads displayed on an input screen. Tanaka et al. employ a controller to determine whether the vehicle can be parked at the target parking position based upon three geometrical relationships between the actual vehicle condition and the target parking position. Notably, Tanaka et al. is silent as to “displaying on the monitor at least one of a predicted path and a predicted parking position on the parking path guided by the guidance information so as to

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overlap the image obtained by the image capturing means.” Tanaka et al. teach away from displaying a predetermined parking path overlapped with an image obtained by the image capturing means by simply diffusing a predetermined audio instruction to the driver that certain geometrical conditions were not satisfied.

Further, Takagi et al. disclose a device for monitoring the area around a vehicle, wherein an image display provides a back camera image of a vehicle to the driver during backing up and, subsequently, switches the back image to a side image of the vehicle so as to provide the operator with an image of the front of the vehicle to ensure safety during parallel parking and other turns. However, Takagi et al. do not disclose a predetermined parking path, wherein it is possible to confirm before parking whether the vehicle can be parked along the predetermined parking path into a parking space by performing driving operations in accordance with guidance information. In fact, Takagi et al. teach away from a predetermined parking path by describing a parking path calculated from a turning radius R , whereby turning radius R is estimated based on the position of a shift lever, a steering angle θ , a yaw rate ω and a vehicle speed SPD . In other words, during operation the parking path in Takagi et al. is displayed in terms of the present state of the vehicle.

Applicants, on the other hand, claim a parking assisting device whereby a controller compares a pre-set prescribed yaw angle with a yaw angle of the vehicle to determine whether an initial position of the vehicle would make parking the vehicle into a target parking position impossible. Advantageously, Applicants’ invention displays at least one of a predicted parking path and a predicted parking position on a parking path so as to overlap with an image obtained by a camera attached to the back of the vehicle, thereby allowing the driver to confirm

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at the initial position whether the vehicle can be parked. None of the cited references teach or suggest such a device. Accordingly, Applicants submit that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established and combination of the cited references is improper.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that dependent claims 4, 6 and 11-15 are patentably distinct from the cited references, taken either alone or in combination, and request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

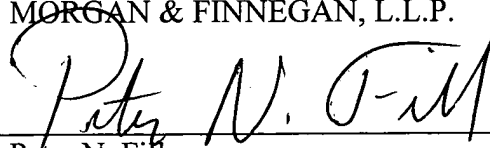
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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